

Message Text

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S; MR. ADAMS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

1. THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ITALY IS TAKEN FROM
THE UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF THE SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY IN
OPEN SESSION BEFORE THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE NOVEMBER 6.

2. QUOTE. MR. WOLFF: A FINAL QUESTION. THAT IS, YOU
REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANCE OF GREECE AND TURKEY TO NATO AND
THE NEED FOR OUR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR BOTH THESE
COUNTRIES. A VERY SERIOUS SITUATION IS DEVELOPING IN ONE
OF THE NATO PARTNERS -- ITALY -- WHERE THERE IS A CHANCE
THAT BECAUSE OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN ITALY, THIS
COUNTRY MIGHT BE LOST TO NATO. AND THIS WOULD BE A MUCH
MORE SERIOUS SITUATION THAN THE LOSS OF EITHER GREECE OR
TURKEY.

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I AM WONDERING WHAT STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN, IF THERE ARE

ANY, TO PRECLUDE THE LOSS OF THIS COUNTRY. AND I AM
TALKING ABOUT THE MOVE TOWARDS THE EXTREME LEFT IN ITALY.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE WERE OF COURSE DISTURBED BY THE

DRAMATIC GAINS MADE BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE RECENT
REGIONAL ELECTIONS IN ITALY, IN THE JUNE ELECTIONS IN
ITALY.

BASICALLY, THE UNITED STATES CANNOT DETERMINE THE DOMESTIC
STRUCTURE OF ITALY BY ITS OWN DECISION, AND BASICALLY
THE FUTURE OF ITALY IS NOT AN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
PROBLEM.

HAVING SAID THIS, HOWEVER, THE UNITED STATES HOPES VERY
MUCH THAT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, WHICH HAS BEEN
THE GOVERNING PARTY, WILL REVITALIZE ITSELF SO THAT IT
CAN GAIN THE NECESSARY PUBLIC SUPPORT AND THAT COALITIONS
CAN BE PUT TOGETHER AMONG THE DEMOCRATIC PARTIES THAT WILL
PREVENT THE ENTRY INTO GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY
OF ITALY, SINCE THE IMPACT ON NATO OF HAVING ONE OF THE
MAJOR COUNTRIES -- WITH A MAJOR COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN
ITS GOVERNMENT -- WOULD BE VERY SEVERE.

SO WE SHARE YOUR CONCERN AND WE ARE GIVING AS MUCH ADVICE
AND ENCOURAGEMENT AS WE CAN. BUT A COUNTRY OF 50 MILLION
PEOPLE, WE CANNOT DETERMINE ITS POLITICAL EVOLUTION AS A
FOREIGN POLICY MATTER. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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